

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 00397 211647Z

72

ACTION AF-18

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7754

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0397

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, SU

SUBJ: POSSIBLE INCREASED BRITISH AID TO SUDANESE MILITARY

1. GENERAL SIR CECIL BLACKER, ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE BRITISH ARMY, CURRENTLY VISITING SUDAN. ACCORDING PRESS, HE WILL HAVE MILITARY TALKS WITH LT. GENERAL BASHIR MUHAMMAD ALI, GOS CHIEF OF STAFF, ON FEB 22 CONCERNING MILITARY RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY TRAINING OF SUDANESE IN UK.

2. BRITISH AMBASSADOR PHILLIPS TOLD THE AMBASSADOR ON FEB 20 THAT GENERAL BLACKER'S VISIT (HE IS VISITING ONLY THE SUDAN) WAS ARRANGED IN AN EFFORT TO IMPORVE SUDANESE/BRITISH RELATIONS. NOTING THAT THERE IS AT PRESENT A "VACUUM" IN TERMS OF FOREIGN SUPPORT FOR THE SUDANESE MILITARY, PHILLIPS EXPRESSED PERSONAL HOPE THAT HMG WOULD BE ABLE OFFER GREATER ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, HE INDICATED THAT GENERAL BLACKER IS NOT REPEAT NOT HERE FOR SPECIFIC NEGOTIATIONS.

3. COMMENT. AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, BRITISH ALREADY HAVE MISSION HERE AT SUDANESE OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL. SINCE THE SUDANESE ARE NO LONGER RELYING ON THE USSR FOR MAJOR ITEMS OF NEW EQUIPMENT, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE FOR THE BRITISH TO PLAY A GREATER ROLE, ASSUMING FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN WHITEHALL. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY LONDON'S COMMENT ON THE LATTER POINT. AS FAR AS
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PAGE 02 KHARTO 00397 211647Z

WE AWARE, GOS HAS NEVER TAKEN UP LONG-PENDING BRITISH OFFER

SELL LIMITED NUMBER MILITARY ITEMS ON COMMERCIAL CREDIT.
BREWER

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NNN

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